



PHOTO BY PENNY RANDALL / THE MERIDIAN STAR

## LOVES FLOWERS

Ruby Young is the owner of R&J Florist on 24th Avenue in Meridian. When she started out, she didn't have a lot of money to spend, so she said she relied on word of mouth and made sure that whatever she did, it was the best.

## Business profile ...

# R&J Florist

*We asked Meridian business owners to fill out questionnaires about themselves and their work. Some questions were serious, some were just for fun.*

*Ruby Young has owned R&J Florist at 2012 24th Ave. in Meridian for 2½ years.*

*She and her husband, James, live in York, Ala. They have three children, Kenneth, Tracy and Tiffany. Ruby is a member of St. John Missionary Baptist Church in Marion.*

**By Ruby Young**  
special to The Star

### First, the fun

A movie about my life and work would be called: "A Dream Come True" because I started in 1964 with Mrs. Lou E. Whitlock and have always wanted a shop of my own. I have worked for several florists over the years and finally God blessed me with a shop of my own.

The role of me would be played by ... me!

### My business

- We prepare flower arrangements for funerals, weddings, hospitals and any occasion that may arise.

- How it started? With very little, mostly word of mouth. I couldn't afford a lot of advertising, so whatever I did, I made sure it was the best. And I still do.

- No. of employees: One

## I CAN'T IMAGINE

- A day without thanking God for this day.
- A week without same as above and seeing customers coming through the door and leaving satisfied and happy.
- A year without my business doing great and prospering.

### What I think

- The best piece of professional advice I ever received was from Mrs. Lou E. Whitlock, who said, "When you go into business, make sure you put your customers first, do the very best you can, and give them 110 percent of your work and love."

- The best thing that happened at my business this year was hiring a new employee who is trustworthy and has a great personality. She knows how to work with customers.

- The biggest challenge my business faces in the coming year is maintaining what we have now, and making sure the business continues to grow by making sure we please our customers.

### A letter from home

- Has Sept. 11 and the U.S. War on Terror changed this country? Yes, I believe it has made this country more cautious and aware of the danger — and that there are people who will do anything in this world.

- Has it touched my family's life? Yes, for awhile we were afraid of flying and still feel a little nervous.

- My message for the troops: My prayers are for your continuing safety — come home soon. I have a relative there, Felecia Ford Gaddis. Our prayer is for her safe return this month.